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JERUSALEM

COUNTRY:	Palestine	REPORT NO:	RF-371
ORIGIN:	Palestine	DATE OF REPORT:	10 March 1948
SOURCE:	[]	DATE OF INFO:	8 March 1948
SUB-SOURCE:	As indicated	EVALUATION:	C-3
SUBJECT:	Survey of the Arab Political and Military Situation		

1. Plans and Situation

1. It is reported that the Arab High Command has not yet been consolidated and that shuffling of personnel is still going on. According to the sub-source Ahmad SHARAFI, Syrian Minister of Defense, has become the directing influence in the Military Committee of the Arab League, even to the extent of giving orders to Hajj Amin HUSAYNI. Because of SHARAFI's influence, the erstwhile strong Iraqi influence in military matters is reportedly gradually being decreased, and Syrian influence and Syrian officers being introduced into the Arab Liberation Army. This development is said to have already resulted in tension between the Iraqi and Syrian officers of Arab military units stationed in Palestine. Sub-source states that one of the gains which the Syrians hope to obtain is annexation of southern Palestine down to Haifa Bay.

2. According to the sub-source, Brigadier CLAYTON has been instructed to concentrate on increasing Syrian influence in the Arab Liberation Army. Sub-source states that Iraqi rejection of the treaty with Great Britain has shifted British policy toward Syria in the hope of eventually concluding an alliance with that country.

3. King ABDALLAH on the other hand, according to sub-source, has been somewhat neglected by the British; it is on the initiative of the former that the Anglo-Trans-Jordanian treaty talks are allegedly being resumed. Sub-source states that the British regard ABDALLAH as unable to play a decisive role in Arab affairs at this time, and that this belief is a factor in the British decision to support Syria. This defiance in British support has allegedly influenced ABDALLAH in part toward modifying his previously expressed neutrality in the Jewish-Arab conflict in Palestine. Sub-source sees in ABDALLAH's agreement to the passage of Syrian troops through Trans-Jordan en route to Palestine and in his recent despatch of Abd-al-Qadir Fakh al-JUNDI to the deliberations of the Military Committee of the Arab League evidence of a shift in his policy.

4. The same sub-source report that the MUFTI now regrets having called for all-out assistance from the Arab states, since the latter are increasingly interfering in the affairs of the Palestine Arabs. The MUFTI is said to regret his appeal even more in the view of the aid—far more than anticipated—which the British are giving to the cause of the

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